



Welcome to the Commissioner's weekly horizon scanning brief:

1. **Legislation** (Legislation, Home Office, APCC, press comments, reports and campaigns relating to strategy, policy and programmes)
2. **Strategic policing and crime news** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Developments and reports** (covering research across political, economic, social, technological, environmental and organisations)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)
5. **Reviews and Inspections** (covering various reviews, inspections and audits across policing)

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1. Legislation

Queen's Speech 2014

Her Majesty's speech to both Houses of Parliament at the State Opening of Parliament 2014 – introduced the following 11 Bills:

- Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Bill
- Childcare Payments Bill
- Infrastructure Bill
- [Modern Slavery Bill](#)
- National Insurance Contributions Bill
- Private Pensions Bill
- Pensions Tax Bill
- Recall of MPs Bill
- [Serious Crime Bill](#)
- [Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill](#)
- [Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill](#)

The following Bills will be published in draft:

- Protection of Charities Bill
- Riot (Damages) Bill
- National Park Authorities (Elections) Bill

Immigration Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.

The Immigration Bill has received Royal Assent making way for a series of reforms which will ensure our immigration system is fairer to British citizens and legitimate migrants and tougher on those with no right to be here. The Immigration Act 2014 contains 77 clauses and makes fundamental changes to how our immigration system functions.

[Care Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Amendments](#)

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, which has been updated to reflect the latest amendments.

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 overarching documents](#)

These documents contain some updates from when they were last published. They include a schedule of when the various sections of the Act are being implemented.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

[The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 \(Ketamine etc.\) \(Amendment\) Order 2014](#)

This Order brings certain drugs under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (the Act) and came into force on 10th June 2014.

[Government to introduce new Pensions Bill into the Commons](#)

Bill to amend provision about pension schemes, including provision designed to encourage arrangements that offer people different levels of certainty in retirement or that involve different ways of sharing or pooling risk.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Home Secretary announces review of undercover policing cases](#)

Home Secretary Theresa May has announced details of a review of criminal convictions in cases involving undercover police officers. The review will look at whether convictions are safe in cases where undercover activity was not revealed to the prosecutor and therefore not considered by the court.

[Chief officers discussed proposals for a new co-ordinating body](#)

At their annual conference, the Association of Chief Police Officers has discussed proposals for a new co-ordinating body.

[Forced marriage is now a crime](#)

Forcing someone to marry against their will became a crime on 16th June 2014 with a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

ACPO comment on khat ban coming into force

Enforcement of the khat ban will be firm but proportionate. Officers will take into account the nature of the offence and its severity, using a tiered approach towards offences relating to possession for personal use.

[Police support volunteers and special constables honoured with awards \(Includes mention of Nottinghamshire Police\)](#)

Home Secretary Theresa May and Policing Minister Damian Green attended an awards ceremony to recognise the dedication and hard work of special constables and police support volunteers. Police Support Volunteer – Individual Award: Chris Channon –

Nottinghamshire Police. The initial idea for Pegasus PIN number initiative was put forward by Chris, who has Cerebral Palsy, and had experienced problems when calling the Force and dealing with officers in person. His idea was to create a way of making it easier for people with disabilities/vulnerabilities to call Nottinghamshire police. The initiative has been developed and introduced across all three emergency services in Nottinghamshire.

[Home Secretary: UK needs capability to defend its citizens](#)

The world is a dangerous place and the UK must maintain its capability to defend its citizens in the digital age, Home Secretary Theresa May said at the annual Lord Mayor's Defence and Security Lecture in London, she spoke of the threat the country faces, including from British people returning home from the conflict in Syria.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill - Fact sheets.

[Police Foundation](#)

Oxford Policing Policy Forum - If 43 police forces is the problem, what is the solution and how do we get there? In the current economic climate, a policing model based on 43 separate forces is difficult to justify. There is widespread concern that the current structure is not cost effective; nor is it equipped to meet the challenges of organised and cross-border crime. However, there is little agreement on what might be a better arrangement.

[Damian Green 'Modernising Justice' Speech](#)

Part of making the criminal justice system more efficient, Crime and policing and law and justice system.

[Youth Justice Board](#)

The Role of the YOT Police Officer. This refreshed guidance is aimed assisting the police service and YOTs with understanding the role of the YOT police officer, and, in turn, the effective deployment of diminished resources.

[Criminology and Criminal Justice](#)

Journal on public attitudes to the sentencing of drug offences.

[Opportunity to take part in research project](#)

Jem Warren Ph.D CPsychol is undertaking research to verify and validate the design of the Person, Process, Priority Model of Professional Decision Making involving participants from the community safety sector. The survey will take about 30-40 minutes to complete and will be confidential.

[Southampton University to research girls' anti-social behaviour](#)

Funding from the European Union will allow research into violent and anti-social behaviour in teenage girls.

[Reality TV shows police under pressure](#)

BBC documentary has laid bare the human cost of government cuts.

[Plans to bridge £20m funding gap are unveiled in Norfolk after planned control room merger is axed](#)

[Northamptonshire YOS becomes latest organisation to attain RSQM](#)

The RJC has announced that the Community Engagement and Restorative Justice Team at Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service has become the latest organisation to attain the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM).

[West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board \(WSSCB\) – Serious Case Review](#)

A Serious Case Review (SCR) published by West Sussex County Council has highlighted missed opportunities and delays in prosecution following the conviction of a teenager, known as John in the SCR, who was jailed for 49 sexual offences involving 13 boys.

3. Developments and reports

[Department for Education](#)

Mental health and behaviour in schools – Departmental advice for school staff.

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Probation](#)

Probation Plan 2014 – 2015.

[Independent Parliamentarians' Inquiry into the Operation and Effectiveness of the Youth Court.](#)

Chaired by Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE QC.

[New Economics Foundation - Commissioning for outcomes and co-production.](#)

A practical guide for local authorities. All local authorities hope to govern in a way that promotes well-being and tackles societal problems at their root. But with finances slashed and demand for public services swelling, struggling councils are seeing these objectives drift further and further out of reach. What can be done? A new model of public service commissioning is evolving across England that may hold the key.

[New Philanthropy Capital](#)

Lessons and opportunities: Perspectives from providers of Social Impact Bonds.

[Local Government Information Unit](#)

People-shaped places: how Lambeth let residents redesign the neighbourhood. The LGiU has carried out an evaluation of Lambeth's new approach to improving the local neighbourhood. Instead of asking residents "*do you support this proposal*", Lambeth wanted to ask residents "*what would you like to see in this area?*" The approach places local citizens in the driving seat and shows how Lambeth Council is seeking to put co-operative principles into practice.

[Lowest rate of young people NEET for 20 years](#)

Figures released reveal the proportion of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) is at the lowest level since comparable records began 20 years ago.

[Reported road casualties in Great Britain: main results 2013](#)

Reported personal injury accident statistics on public roads in Great Britain for 2013. Figures are available by police force and local authority area. Key figures being:

- 1,713 people were killed, 2% fewer than 2012 - that's five a day
- 21,657 people suffered serious injuries, 6% fewer than 2012 - that's 59 a day

New reports aim to help reduce accidents to children and young people in the home and on the roads

Public Health England (PHE) have launched 2 new resources for local authorities on preventing accidents to children and young people in the home and on the road. The reports show whilst the number of children and young people killed or seriously injured continues to fall in England there are still significant numbers of deaths and emergency admissions from preventable causes. On average each year between 2008 to 2012, 525 children and young people under 25 died and there were more than 53,700 admissions to hospital. The reports highlight actions local partners can take to reduce accidents including improving safety for children travelling to and from school and using existing services like health visitors and children's centres.

The [Reducing unintentional injuries in and around the home among children under 5 Years](#) and the [Reducing unintentional injuries on the roads among children and young people under 25](#) reports include an analysis of data between 2008 to 2012.

[Learner drivers to pay less for theory tests from October 2014](#)

The cost of the driving theory test will be cut by 25%, saving learner drivers in excess of £100 million over the next 9 years, Transport Minister [Stephen Hammond](#) has announced. The fee for a car driving theory test will fall by £6 in October 2014, taking the cost of a test from £31 to £25, with a further drop of £2 in October 2015. Theory test fees for motorcycles and other categories of vehicle will also be reduced. The changes have been confirmed following a public consultation.

[Transport Select Committee](#)

Security on the railway.

[Transport Committee to hold first evidence session for investing in the railway inquiry](#)

This is the first evidence session in the Transport Committee's Investing in the railway inquiry, which aims to scrutinise the impact and deliverability of Network Rail's £38 billion investment programme over the next five years (Control Period 5) and to identify priorities for investment after 2019. Likely topics for discussion include the extent to which the investment in Control Period 5 will reduce bottlenecks in the network, improve resilience and meet demands for greater capacity.

[Transport Committee launch inquiry on motoring of the future](#)

The Transport Committee is launching an inquiry on motoring of the future. This inquiry will examine how the UK Government can address developments in motoring technology, notably alternative fuels, safety improvements and driver aids.

[Public Accounts Select Committee - Inquiry](#)

England's strategic and local road networks are our most highly valued infrastructure asset, at around £344 billion. The two networks comprise over 187,000 miles of roads. They include more than 61,000 bridges, drainage systems, and numerous other features - such as embankments and retaining walls. This infrastructure supports 90 per cent of passenger traffic and 68 per cent of freight movements. Maintaining it so that it is safe, serviceable and reliable, is vital for the economy and the social well-being of communities. In response to the Spending Review 2010, the Department proposed to cut road maintenance budgets by £1.2 billion. The Department for Communities and Local Government planned to reduce its grant to local authorities by 28 per cent in real terms over the five-year period. In 2012, the Committee of Public Accounts report, Reducing costs in the Department for Transport,

concluded that the Department did not have a full understanding of budget reductions, and that these reductions risked higher long-term costs.

Health Select Committee - Children's and adolescent mental health and CAMHS.

In the light of concerns that have been expressed by the Chief Medical Officer and others about both the extent to which children and adolescents are affected by mental health problems and difficulties with gaining access to appropriate treatment, the Health Committee has decided to undertake an inquiry into children's and adolescent mental health and CAMHS.

National Audit Office

Environmental Protection - Briefing to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee.

DWP annual report and accounts

Information on expenditure and performance of the Department for Work and Pensions, 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Public sector borrowing up £4.6bn in May

Public sector borrowing in May was £13.3bn, up £4.6bn from the same month last year when it was £8.7bn, figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have revealed. The Public Sector Finances, May 2014 report estimates that the monthly deficit increased due to there being no transfers from the Bank of England's Asset Purchase Facility Fund in the month. This is compared to last year when £3.9bn was transferred during May.

National Audit Office report: Local government funding: assurance to Parliament

The Department for Communities and Local Government has increased local authorities' flexibility over their funding since 2010, but as a result has less information on how funds are being spent, according to the National Audit Office.

Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts Committee responds to NAO local government funding report

Margaret Hodge MP, Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts, has made the following statement in response to the National Audit Office's report, Local government funding: assurance to Parliament.

Government publishes response to select committee report on local government procurement

The government has published its response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee report into local government procurement.

Government takes action to support whistleblowing

Employees who blow the whistle on wrongdoing in the workplace will receive more information and support under new measures to strengthen whistleblowing legislation announced by Employment Relations Minister Jenny Willott.

Councils to be banned from widespread use of CCTV 'spy cars'

The government will make it illegal for councils to issue penalty charge notices to drivers using just closed circuit television (CCTV) 'spy cars' that currently patrol roads for on-street parking enforcement. One of a range of measures used to rein in 'over-zealous' parking

enforcement practices, the ban will now become law through the Deregulation Bill, following a three-month consultation.

Relaxing minicab licensing laws could be ‘devastating’ – LGA

Plans to allow licensed drivers to let other people use their vehicle when they are off-duty – without any checks being carried out – could be ‘devastating’, the Local Government Association (LGA) has warned. Relaxing minicab licensing under the Deregulation Bill, which is at the Report Stage in Parliament, could pose a greater risk to public safety, according to the LGA.

Bedroom tax is ‘fundamentally flawed’

Research carried out by University of Cambridge revealed that bedroom tax does not take into account overall floor space in English homes. The university found during the course of its study that the majority of homes did not have enough floor space according to modern standards.

Councillors should ignore ‘Stalinist’ ban on media contact

New guidance from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that tries to ban parish councillors from speaking to journalists without prior permission from officials has been castigated in the strongest terms by the government. NALC has written to 9,000 parish and town councils urging them to adopt the guidelines into their constitutions, meaning councillors who refuse to comply could be disciplined.

City Deal opens up billion pound investment in Cambridge

The Cambridge City Deal, which could see up to £1bn pumped into the city’s transport network, has been signed with the government.

Every council that bid for pothole cash gets a share

All 148 local authorities that applied for funding through the government’s £168m ‘Repair the Pothole Fund’ have been successful and will receive a share of the extra money, the DfT has revealed.

500 council staff take voluntary redundancy

Wolverhampton City Council has announced that more than 500 people working for the authority have been approved for voluntary redundancy. The council plans to cut 2,000 jobs—a third of its workforce—over the next two years as part of austerity measures. The council has to find £123m worth of savings by 2018.

Audit Commission calls for improved ‘accuracy’ in grant claims

The Audit Commission has called for “improved quality” and “accuracy” in grant and subsidy claims and returns by local authorities. This comes after 78% of councils’ claims to the grant-paying body for housing benefit subsidies for 2012-13 were challenged by the Audit Commission’s appointed auditors.

Universal Credit expanded into north west

Universal Credit will be rolled out across the north west of England, but the total number of jobcentres offering the flagship scheme will still only total 90 – one in eight of the total across Britain.

Winning bids for government’s £10m broadband fund announced

The eight successful bids for the government's £10m innovation fund to explore ways to take superfast broadband to the most remote and hardest to reach places in the UK have been announced. The shortlisted pilots will explore how to expand coverage in remote areas, using fixed wireless and satellite technologies, a social investment financial model and an operating model which aggregates small rural networks, to ensure no-one is left behind in the digital slow lane. Successful bids include Wales (£847,650), North Yorkshire (£1,564,600), North Lincolnshire (£2,054,000), Northern Ireland and Scotland (£885,640), Devon and Somerset (£175,125), Hampshire (£1,194,145), Northumberland (£449,997) and Kent (£957,900).

Why we need smarter water management for the world's most essential resource – White Paper

Around the globe, water is used for much more than just drinking. Water is essential for agriculture and for cooling and cleaning industrial equipment. It is incorporated into a wide range of products, and vast amounts of it are needed to irrigate crops, parks and golf courses. And, as growing consumer and industry demand strains water supplies, society must manage the consumption and distribution of this precious and finite resource with greater efficiency.

Data integration in the public sector – White Paper

Decisions which are made on the basis of poor-quality data expose public sector bodies to risk, and cost them money. Some risks – such as regulatory noncompliance – are immediate. Longer term risks include policy and performance failure, especially when an optimism bias or a mistrust of internal data hinders realistic, grounded forecasting.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Live tables on homelessness.

Department for Education

Neighbourhood Statistics in England - academic year 2012 – 2013.

4. Consultations

Ministry of Justice seeks views on support for male sexual abuse survivors

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is giving male survivors of sexual abuse a chance to have their say about the sort of support they'd like to receive. Earlier this year the government committed £500,000 to the first dedicated fund to support male victims of rape and sexual abuse. The MOJ is now asking for people's views to help shape how this new pot of money is spent. The dialogue closes on the 13th July.

Consultation into police use of pre-charge bail extended

Police forces, stakeholders and members of the public now have an extra four weeks to comment on new principles to govern the use of this police power. The consultation now closes on 21st July 2014.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2014: draft regulations on scheme governance

This consultation on new governance arrangements, seeks responses from interested parties on the draft regulations which are to come into force from October 2014 onwards. This consultation closes on 15 August 2014.

[Accounts and Audit Regulations consultation 2014 - earlier closure of accounts](#)

The Local Audit Consultation which **proposals include the earlier preparation and publication of the Statement of Accounts**. In January 2014, the Local Audit and Accountability Act received Royal Assent. Secondary legislation is needed to give effect to the new local audit arrangements and the consultation covers the detail of this. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 set out requirements on financial management, internal control, internal audit, the content of published accounts and procedures affecting the published accounts, public rights and the audit itself for all relevant authorities except health service bodies. New Accounts and Audit Regulations, to be made under Section 32 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, will play a similar role in the new local audit framework. One of the proposals is to bring forward, from 2017/18, the existing dates of 30 June and 30 September to 31 May and 31 July, for accounts being signed and certified by the Responsible Financial Officer and then approved and published. The consultation is open until **18 July 2014**.

[Integrated inspections to assess the contribution of all professionals to the help, care and protection of children and young people](#)

The consultation launch of the targeted programme of integrated inspections. This marks a major step forward in the way that the contribution of local agencies is assessed with regards to the help, care and protection of children, young people and families. Under proposals published, from April 2015, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, and where appropriate, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons will work together to carry out a targeted programme of 'integrated' inspections. The consultation will run from 23 June – 12 September 2014 (12 weeks).

[Traineeships: funding reform in England](#)

This is a joint consultation from the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. We are asking for views on how government funding for the traineeships programme in England can be used to deliver the best possible results for young people.

[NICE quality standards – the process guide](#)

The second update to the process guide for developing NICE quality standards is now available for comment in draft form. Note that the process guide is provisional and may change after consultation. **Consultation dates: Tuesday 10 June - Wednesday 3 September 2014**

[Reform of the Riot \(Damages\) Act](#)

Consultation on proposals to reform and modernise the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. The consultation will close on 1 August 2014.

[Proposed changes to guidance on domestic violence](#)

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, has proposed changes to the way the CPS considers domestic violence cases and has published draft guidance, which is out for consultation, that explains the impact of domestic abuse on different groups to help

prosecutors to adopt a tailored approach taking into account their particular support needs. The consultation is open until 9th July 2014.

[Data policy for a Public Data Corporation](#)

Views wanted on how to provide accessible public sector information. The consultation will close on 27 October 2014.

5. Reviews and Inspections

East Midlands Commissioner's Commission HMIC Review

The purpose of the commission is to provide the East Midlands regional police and crime commissioners assurance on the effectiveness and efficiency of managing counter terrorism funding arrangements through a single counter terrorism (CT) grant rather than through separate funding streams.

[HMIC provides assurance that chief constables are having regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement – but finds that more needs to be done](#)

This inspection examined how well police forces have established the arrangements that the Strategic Policing Requirement requires them to have in place to counter a number of specified threats to national security and public safety. It is based on data and documentary evidence provided by all 43 police forces in England and Wales in July 2013. It includes supporting fieldwork, conducted in 18 forces, and in nine Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCs).

[HMIC Programme](#)

HMIC sets out its inspection programme and resources for the year ahead.

Thematic Inspections already Committed to in 2014/15:

- Making Best Use of Police Time
- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 4
- Undercover Policing (Home Secretary Commission)
- Domestic Abuse (Home Secretary Commission)
- Crime Data Integrity – July 2014
- Child Protection – July 2014

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Leadership (Police Integrity and Corruption)
- Follow up to Mistakes Were Made Report
- Revisit of Stop and Search
- Protecting Vulnerable People Programme: Missing Children
- Police Management of Information
- Police National Database (PND) Audit
- Use of the Police National Computer (PNC) by Non-Police Organisations

Proposed Topics for New Thematic Inspections in 2014/15

- Modern Slavery
- So-Called Honour Based Violence (HBV)
- Cyber Crime.